LESSON PLAN

The Fir Tree and the Bramble

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about the importance of humility. Ask students if they can think of examples of characters from other short stories for students with moral lessons who learned the value of humility.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Fir Tree and the Bramble" aloud to the class. Discuss the key elements of the story, focusing on character development and the narrative arc.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, have students analyze the motivations of the Fir Tree and the Bramble. Each group will present their findings, discussing how each character's perspective contributes to the story's moral.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to reflect individually on a situation in their own lives where humility played a role. They can write a short paragraph about it or share it with a partner.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick formative assessment by asking students to summarize the moral of the story in their own words. This can be done verbally or through a quick written response.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Fir Tree and the Bramble; The moral of the story is that it is better to live a humble life free from worries than to be in a position of perceived importance that invites danger and distress.
- **Plot Summary**: The Fir Tree boasts to the Bramble about its usefulness and grandeur, looking down on the bramble for its perceived insignificance. However, the Bramble warns the Fir Tree about the dangers that come with its stature, highlighting that a humble life may be free from such worries and threats.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Fir Tree**: Represents pride and the desire for status, showcasing the dangers of vanity.
  - **Bramble**: Symbolizes humility and the wisdom that comes from living a modest life, emphasizing the importance of contentment.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to their lives.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their implications.
  - Students will discuss the themes of pride and humility in the context of the story.
  - Students will create their own short stories with a moral lesson.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the Fir Tree learn by the end of the story?
  2. How does the Bramble's perspective challenge the Fir Tree's views?
  3. Can you think of a time when pride led to negative consequences in your life or someone you know?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Fir Tree and the Bramble"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for storytelling exercises

✓ Original text available on the story page.